



CLICK TO READ

Ensana plans Bulgarian debut

European health spa hotel operator Ensana has announced plans to begin operating its first Bulgarian location.

Launched in 2019, Ensana manages 27 hotels in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and the UK, many of which are located in historic spa towns renowned for their natural healing resources and restorative properties.

Ensana's new location – The Aquahouse Hotel & Spa – will be located in the Northern Bulgarian seaside resort town of Sts. Constantine & Helena.

The destination has long been a historic wellness tourist hotspot thanks to its naturally occurring mineral springs. In a nod to this, the hotel is complete with an array of indoor and outdoor pools as well as an extensive water and



ENSANA

■ Ensana will take over the management of the Aquahouse Hotel on 1 October 2023

ENSANA

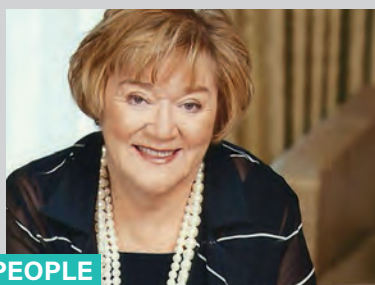
thermal zone including steam baths and various saunas.

"We're very happy to announce that we're extending to Bulgaria, a country with a rich spa history dating back to ancient Roman times," said Frank Halmos, CEO of Ensana.

MORE >>> http://lei.sr/m2v5c_B

Bulgaria has a rich spa history dating back to ancient Roman times

Frank Halmos



CHAMPNEYS

PEOPLE

Spa Business pays tribute to Dorothy Purdew

Champneys owner dies aged 91

p04



SHUTTERSTOCK/LKUNL

DATA

Japan named world's third largest wellness economy

GWJ reveals new country data for Japan

p6



AMAN

APPOINTMENTS

Maria Sharapova teams up with Aman

Tennis icon named global wellness ambassador

p10

The background image shows a serene spa environment. A wall of horizontal wooden planks is the focal point. In the foreground, two massage tables are partially visible, covered with dark brown and light beige towels. A stack of folded white towels sits on one of the tables. To the left, a dark shelf holds three white bottles with silver caps. To the right, a dark, vertically-ribbed wall provides a modern contrast to the natural wood.

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Industry celebrates the life of Champneys founder, Dorothy Purdew

Dorothy Purdew OBE, industry veteran and co-owner and chair of UK-based health spa chain Champneys, has died aged 91.

Born in 1932 in Clapham, London, Purdew launched her first business in 1970 with just £60 (US\$75, €70).

In 1981, Purdew acquired countryside wellness retreat Henlow Grange with her son Stephen and late husband Bob. By 1990, the family then acquired a further three properties – Springs Hydro, Forest Mere and finally Champneys Tring (the original Champneys spa) – all of which contributed to the formation of the Champneys group.

The Purdews then extended the spa brand to the rest of their portfolio. The business steadily grew in prominence



CHAMPNEYS

Dorothy leaves behind a legacy that will be forever cherished

Champneys

and in recent times, has been expanded to include Eastwell Manor and, more recently, Mottram Hall.

Announcing the news, Champneys said: “Dorothy leaves behind a legacy that will be forever cherished. Her spirit will guide us as we strive to uphold her vision and commitment to excellence.”

Worth more than £300 million (US\$376.5 million, €350.5 million), the group is one of the largest and most recognisable spa brands in the world and is referred to as the UK’s original health spa.

Its properties became particularly popular in the 90s after they attracted a famous clientele including politicians, celebrities and royalty.

MORE >>> http://lei.sr/P4G4F_B



CARILLON MIAMI WELLNESS RESORT

It’s a wonderful feeling to be recognised for my contributions

Tammy Pahel

Tammy Pahel crowned 2024 ISPA Dedicated Contributor Award winner

Tammy Pahel has been recognised by the International Spa Association (ISPA) with its 2024 ISPA Dedicated Contributor Award.

Currently vice president of spa operations for Carillon Miami Wellness Resort, Pahel will accept the award at the 32nd annual ISPA Conference taking place at the Phoenix Convention Center from 23 to 25 April 2024.

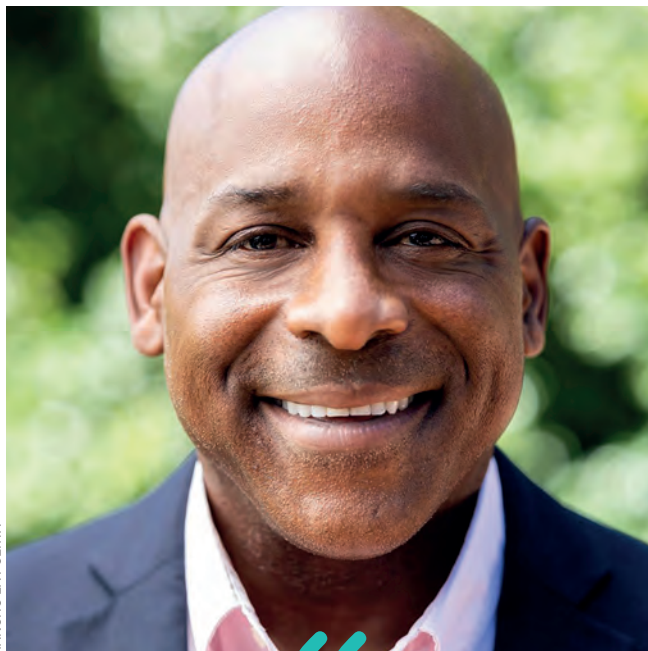
“I’m overjoyed with this honour!,” she said. “I truly respect ISPA and all it does for the industry and the

amazing group of professionals who share the same passion as I do.

“After years of dedication and growth within this industry, it’s a wonderful feeling to be recognised for my contributions.”

In addition to her leadership role for Carillon Miami, Pahel also serves as chief wellness officer for hospitality and wellness management company Alchemy Wellness Resorts. She also previously led several spas in executive director and GM roles and served as an ISPA Board member.

MORE >>> http://lei.sr/B6j9K_B



RANCHO LA PUERTA

**We look forward to seeing
Eliezer's positive impact on
our guest experience**

Sarah Livia Brightwood Szekely

Rancho La Puerta names Eliezer Quiñones new GM

Iconic wellness and fitness destination Rancho La Puerta is under new leadership with the appointment of Eliezer Quiñones as its general manager.

A hospitality industry veteran with more than two decades of experience, Quiñones will be leading the iconic Baja California resort in Tecate, which spans 4,000 private acres of gardens, mountains and meadows.

"Eliezer's expertise in the luxury hotel industry makes him the ideal fit for us," said Sarah Livia Brightwood Szekely, president of Rancho La Puerta. "We look forward to seeing his positive impact on our guest experience and beloved community and nurturing the next generation of leaders at The Ranch."

Originally from Puerto Rico, Quiñones' hospitality career began in the US 25 years ago but it grew in Mexico, where he has opened luxury resorts and residences for brands such as The Ritz-Carlton, St. Regis Hotels & Resorts, Auberge Resorts Collection and Banyan Tree Group.

MORE >>> http://lei.sr/n9z6T_B

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DATA

Japan's wellness economy ranks world #3

Japan has the third largest wellness economy globally – worth US\$303 billion (£242.6 billion, €283 billion) – according to new data from the Global Wellness Institute (GWI).

The findings came to light after the GWI added Japan to its Geography of Wellness website.

Findings show Japan ranks in the top five in all wellness sectors measured by the GWI.

“Japan is an amazing example of a sustainable, strong wellness economy,” said Susie Ellis, GWI chair and CEO.



GWI

“Japan is a sustainable and strong wellness economy

Susie Ellis

“Wellness is deeply embedded in the country's DNA: from its culture of healthy eating to its focus on both public health investment and traditional and complementary medicine.”

MORE >>> http://lei.sr/E2j7e_B

DESIGN

New designs for Therme Canada and Manchester

Therme Canada has released a newly evolved project design for its West Island of Ontario Place destination. The facility will deliver Therme Group's signature year-round family-friendly destination attraction concept alongside four more acres of public parkland.

It comes at the same time as Therme Manchester in the UK has submitted a new design for planning approval. Both updates followed consultations with the public in Toronto and Manchester.

“The refreshed design in Canada delivers the same great waterpark and wellbeing attractions, but thanks



Therme Canada

■ A rendering of Therme Canada Ontario Place



Therme Group

“The refreshed design has even more natural spaces

Robert Hanea

to feedback, it has even more open parkland, more natural spaces, more public trails and more places for people to gather,” said Dr Robert Hanea, Therme Group CEO and chair.

MORE >>> http://lei.sr/f3H9u_B

PROMOTIONS

ESPA promotes Samantha Ashton

Samantha Ashton has stepped up to a new role as director of spa UK & Ireland at UK-based global spa and wellbeing brand ESPA.

Ashton is an experienced industry veteran who has worked in beauty for more than 25 years. Having worked at ESPA for five years, Ashton initially joined as a retail area manager for the North of the UK and was promoted to the position of head of education and development in 2021.

Her new role includes commercial and operational responsibility for all UK ESPA spas.



“I’m very passionate about the spa industry and its future

Samantha Ashton

She commented: “I’m very passionate about the spa industry and its future. I’m looking forward to developing and enhancing ESPA guests’ customer journeys throughout the UK and Ireland.”

MORE >>> http://lei.sr/2j2s7_B

REFURBISHMENTS

Aqua Sana Elveden Forest receives makeover

Center Parcs is conducting a multi-million-pound spa remodel at its Elveden Forest holiday village in Norfolk, UK.

Reimagined in line with Center Parcs’ Forest Spa concept, the spa will reopen on 29 September with 25 experiences.

The new facilities will be spread across six zones and be inspired by some of the world’s most extraordinary natural environments.

Center Parcs says the redesign “reflects our woodland surroundings through the use of natural materials, views and nature-inspired immersive experiences”.



■ The new-look spa will reopen in late September

The overhaul was completed with input from interior design firm Sparcstudio – the same team that refreshed the spas at Center Parcs Longleat, Longford Forest, Sherwood Forest and Woburn Forest with the award-winning Forest Spa concept.

In total, Center Parcs has five holiday parks in the UK as well as one in Ireland. All include spas. In 2021, the operator announced plans to open a sixth location in the south east of England.

MORE >>> http://lei.sr/5C3F9_B

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LIFESTYLE

Healthy diet, reading and sports promote reasoning skills in children

Children who take part in organised physical activity or sport over their first two school years, while also having better diets and spending more time reading, have more powerful reasoning skills than peers who don't have the benefit of these kinds of support or engagement.

Reasoning skills are crucial in learning, academic performance and everyday problem-solving.

A study by University of Eastern Finland (Itä-Suomen yliopisto) researched data from the Physical Activity and Nutrition in Children (PANIC) project – a two-year diet and physical activity intervention which

focused on cognition among 397 Finnish elementary school children.

Diet specifics were critical, with doctoral researcher Sehrish Naveed commenting:

“Children with healthier eating habits showed greater cognitive development than children on poorer diets.”

Active school transportation, physical activity during school recesses and physical activity intensity – while giving other major benefits – were not found to be specifically associated with reasoning skills.

MORE >>> http://lei.sr/A3z7H_B



■ The findings come from a study by the University of Eastern Finland

“
Children with healthier eating habits showed greater cognitive development

Sehrish Naveed

EXPANSION

Serotonin Centers opens new longevity club in Orlando

“
We're allowing more Floridians to lead longer and more fulfilling lives

Eric Casaburi

US longevity franchise Serotonin Centers has expanded its footprint with a second Florida location in Winter Park.

There are currently four Serotonin Centres open in the US, with a further 26 in development.

The brand will open three further private member clubs in Orlando within the next year.

Serotonin's anti-ageing concept incorporates medical practitioners and health coaches in a concierge ecosystem to help slow down the human biological clock.



■ There are four Serotonin Xentres open in the US

The company is the brainchild of Eric Casaburi, founder of low-cost fitness franchise Retro Fitness.

He said: “Serotonin was born in Windermere, Florida and now we're allowing more Floridians to lead longer and more fulfilling lives.”

MORE >>> http://lei.sr/V4a7G_B



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ESPA

Star power

Aman has announced a new partnership with global tennis superstar Maria Sharapova and secured US\$360 million from UAE investors



■ An Olympic medallist,
Sharapova retired in 2020

Aman and I wanted to give its community access to coaching and training designed for elite athletes

Former world number one tennis player Maria Sharapova has entered into a multi-year partnership to become Aman's first global wellness ambassador.

In her new role, the Russian former elite athlete will co-create a series of retreats across different Aman properties focused on preparation, performance and recovery to encompass body and mind.

Aman says the partnership with Sharapova – a long-term fan of the luxury hotel group – is a natural extension of their existing relationship.

Sharapova will host her first retreat in February 2024 at Amanpuri, Aman's flagship property in Phuket, Thailand.

The three-night performance and Recovery Retreat will see Sharapova curate and mentor participants through a series of interactive experiences and activities, as well as informative sessions with specialists that she has worked with during her 20-year career as an elite athlete.

Alongside a focus on ethos, Sharapova will incorporate innovative technologies that she uses in her daily wellness routine to create a forward-thinking retreat.

Group activities, dining experiences and Q&A sessions with Sharapova

■ The first Janu will open in Tokyo later this year



AMAN

I was fortunate to get years of incredible physical and mental training which helps me perform at the highest level

and visiting practitioners will complete the offering.

She said: “This partnership came from my experience over the last few years as I made the transition from professional athlete to businesswoman and mother.

“I was fortunate to get years of incredible physical and mental training which now helps me perform at the highest level in all my endeavours.

“Aman and I wanted to give its community access to coaching and training – designed for elite athletes – that will serve the pursuit of their personal and professional aspirations.”

In addition, Aman New York has recently launched a half-day Strength and Recovery retreat designed by Sharapova.

The itinerary includes an optimised performance breakfast menu developed in partnership with Sharapova and executive chef Jeremy Price, an hour

strength and conditioning session created by Sharapova, followed by a banya treatment, reflexology and an Aman x 111Skin face mask, held in one of the private Aman Spa houses.

New funding

Aman received US\$360 million (€336.1 million, £288.9 million) in funding from UAE royals to fund its expansion plans – namely, the launch of its sister brand Janu in Tokyo in Q4.

The investors include a unit of Abu Dhabi wealth fund Mubadala Investment Co and Alpha Wave Ventures, a private equity fund co-managed by Alpha Wave Global and Chimera Capital, according to *Skift*.

The recent cash injection builds upon the additional US\$900 million (€840.3 million, £722.2 million) in funding Aman received in 2022 from the Public Investment Fund and Cain International.

Aman has used the extra money to bolster its Janu development pipeline, which now includes 11 upcoming projects in the Maldives, Montenegro, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Thailand, Türkiye, Turks & Caicos and UAE.

The update also means Aman's valuation has surpassed the US\$3 billion (€2.8 billion, £2.4 billion) mark.

Introducing Janu

Unveiled in 2020, Janu is underpinned by a fresh philosophy based on social connection, equilibrium and human interaction.

Aman says Janu properties will feature spas designed to facilitate social connection and equilibrium through extensive hydro and thermal offerings intended as social spaces.

Hotel design will focus on space and light. ●



Wild wellness

Studio Apostoli shares its plans for a wellness oasis in a Mongolian national park with *Spa Business*

Verona-based spa and wellness design firm Studio Apostoli has been appointed to support the creation of a wellness-centric eco-resort 40km from the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar.

The vision

Developed by Devjikh Tsog Khugjil, Tavan Jargal Resort is currently in the preliminary design and business planning stages.

The vision for the 13-hectare development is to create a high-end wellness oasis tucked away in a protected national park that showcases Mongolian culture and the area's natural beauty through thoughtful architecture.

Nestled between rolling hills and water sources, the resort has been designed with organic shapes and natural materials to help it integrate seamlessly into the landscape.

The resort, owned by the Altangobi Group, will consist of a two-level hotel,

a 2,650sq m spa, 27 villas – some featuring their own wellness facilities – and 19 traditional Mongolian nomadic dwellings called Gers. Three F&B areas will complete the offering.

Wellness facilities

Studio Apostoli founder Alberto Apostoli told *Spa Business* that his team is overseeing architectural and interior design, spa consulting and management, business modelling and planning, marketing and the sustainability strategy.



STUDIO APOSTOLI



“The concept behind Tavan Jargal is rooted in wu xing, or the five elements of Eastern philosophy,” he said. “They’re combined to ensure harmony and balance and are nurtured by sustainability, one of the founding values of the development.”

“We’re creating a paradise immersed in a nature reserve. Here the human/nature relationship will be the subject of a true celebration of wellbeing, stimulated and pursued in every detail, choice of materials, orientation of buildings, volumetric composition and more.”



The concept behind Tavan Jargal is rooted in wu xing, or the five elements of Eastern philosophy

The spa will feature five treatment rooms – three single and two double – and be divided into a family area and an adults-only space. Facilities confirmed so far include two pools, an onsen and a fitness area.

While devising the treatment menu, Studio Apostoli was inspired by the practice of chua k’a: an ancient Mongolian massage approach that is claimed to offer deep relaxation using slow manoeuvres to reharmonise energies throughout the body. ●

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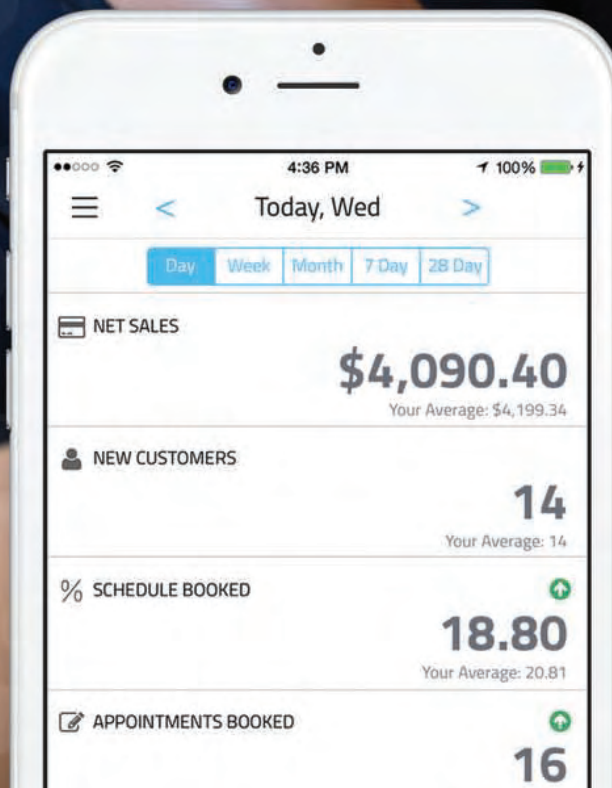




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SUPPLIER NEWS

Suppliers tell Spa Business insider about their latest product, design and technology launches

For the latest supplier news and company information, visit spa-kit.net



■ The new probiotic skincare trio from Esse

Esse latest skincare trio taps live probiotics

Microbiome skincare and spa brand Esse Skincare has launched three new products containing lactobacillus bacteria to boost the effect of medical aesthetic treatments.

The new Esse Pre-care Oil, Esse Activator and Esse Post-care Oil formulations were developed by company founder, Trevor Steyn and his research team.

He said: “We have a unique advantage in dealing with compromised skin pre- and post-treatment. We can use live lactobacillus bacteria to

help the microbiome to protect the skin while it heals.

“This improves client outcomes and reduces risk for the practitioner. Live bacteria are used in a similar role in new treatment protocols for third-degree burn victims.”

In the preparation phase, the Pre-care Oil is used to deliver low levels of probiotics to allow the skin to acclimatise.

The Activator is then applied to release the probiotics onto the skin by dissolving the microcapsules, providing a nutrient mix to feed the microbes.

After the procedure, the level of probiotics is increased to provide protection by competitive exclusion, fulfilling one of the primary roles of the microbiome. Esse says the Activator ensures that the pH is buffered to the correct level and that these microbes are effectively released onto the skin.

For the Post-care Oil, Esse worked with a new ingredient; sapienic acid. This is the most abundant fatty acid in sebum and its unique to humans, as no other animals produce it.

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<http://lei.sr/F8W6l>

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Deborah Merdjan, CEO, Camelot Spa Group

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Zoe Williamson, Strategic Partnership Manager EMEA, Hydrafacial



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SUPPLIER NEWS

Alqvimia unveils Bust Firming Body Lotion and new décolletage treatment

Spanish aromatherapy spa and skincare brand Alqvimia has introduced a new pro-ageing solution for the neck, chest and décolletage area; the Bust Firming Body Lotion.

Due to the passage of time and hormonal changes, the levels of elasticity and firmness of the skin

around this area deplete over time.

Alqvimia's new lotion has been designed to act on this area and improve firmness, hydrate the skin and provide a wellbeing boost through the power of aromatherapy.

With a light silky texture, the lotion was developed to either complement or offer an alternative to Alqvimia's existing Generous Bust Oil.

Its key ingredients include extract of arnica flower, fenugreek, commiphora mukul, jojoba esters and oil derived from Chilean almonds, hazelnuts and organic rosehip.

The new product is completed with a fragrance blended from lemon, orange, ylang-ylang, geranium and lemongrass essential oils.

ALQVIMIA

■ The fragrance blends lemon, orange, ylang-ylang, geranium and lemongrass

Alqvimia has chosen to showcase the Bust Firming Body Lotion with a 60-minute ritual – which draws on Taoist massage techniques.

MORE ON spa-kit.net

<http://lei.sr/p7T2p>



■ Drolma Lizcano,
CEO of Alqvimia

Massage Envy and Saltability collaborate

Himalayan salt stone massage specialist Saltability has teamed up with US spa franchisor Massage Envy Spas to launch a pilot programme for its signature Restore Himalayan Salt Stone Massage in Southern Florida.

Saltability's full-body massage incorporates warmed salt stones carved from sustainably-sourced pure Himalayan salt.

Gently heated with a US-engineered warmer and energy-conservative LED lighting, the Himalayan salt stones contain up to 84 naturally occurring minerals and elements. They are claimed to stimulate circulation, detoxify, lightly exfoliate the skin and calm the nervous system as well as tired or sore muscles.



■ The massage requires no water and is chemical-free

"We're thrilled to be partnering with Massage Envy to bring our Himalayan Salt Stone Massage to 40 of their locations in and around Miami," said Ann Brown, Saltability founder and chief executive officer.

MORE ON spa-kit.net <http://lei.sr/d4g8t>

Book4Time Pay extends reach to more than 30 countries

Cloud-based spa and amenity management software platform Book4Time has expanded its coverage for its integrated solution through a partnership with fintech company Adyen.

Thanks to the partnership, coverage for Book4Time Pay now expands beyond the US and includes Canada and most of Europe as well as Australia and Singapore in the APAC region.

The payment solution provides customers with the ability to take deposits and guarantees at the time of booking to prevent no-shows, accept EMV credit/debit at the point of sale and sell gift cards and resort passes online as well as manage recurring membership billings and provide self-service mobile checkouts.

Paired with transparent and competitive pricing and security features such as 3DS, fraud mitigation and chargeback management, Book4Time Pay has seen significant adoption since launching in Q3 of 2021.

"Book4Time Pay has been well received by our US customers," says Roger Sholanki, CEO.



SHUTTERSTOCK/BODIAPHVIDEO

■ Book4Time Pay's reach has been extended

"Now we're excited to be able to expand Book4Time Pay's reach and offer our customers in Canada, Europe and Asia an integrated payments offering to help them improve the guest experience, drive efficiencies and make cost savings."

MORE ON spa-kit.net <http://lei.sr/14s3s>

Milana Knowles joins **Gharieni** as VP of US business development

Gharieni Group has announced the appointment of Milana Knowles as its new vice president of business development for the US.

With a background in marketing, wellness and business development, Knowles has been brought on board to elevate Gharieni's presence in the US and forge connections with esteemed players in the luxury beauty, hospitality, medical wellness and residential sectors.

Gharieni describes Knowles as a seasoned beauty and wellness executive with a result-oriented leadership style and an ability to build strong partnerships and relationships.

Her experience spans the wellness, lifestyle, beauty, spa and retail industries where she has worked with established brands including Clarins, Avon Spa, Spa Finder, Dr Brandt. Skincare and Mov Living.

Before joining Gharieni, Knowles founded MK Consulting in New York.

Knowles commented: "I'm honoured to become a part of Gharieni's journey as we embark on an exciting phase of growth and next-generation innovation.

"I'm eager to collaborate with the talented team."

MORE ON spa-kit.net <http://lei.sr/a6J8l>



GHARIENI

■ Knowles has worked for Clarins, Avon Spa and Spa Finder



THE WELLNESS REVOLUTION

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WEB ADDRESS BOOK

Connect with spa organisations from around the world.

We welcome your entries – write to spateam@leisuremedia.com

Asia-Pacific Spa & Wellness Coalition (APSWC)

■ www.apswc.org

Association of Malaysian Spas (AMSPA)

■ www.amspa.org.my

Australasian Wellness Association (ASWELL)

■ <https://aswell.au>

Bali Spa and Wellness Association

■ www.balispawellness-association.org

Brazilian Esthetics & Spas Association

■ www.abesbrasil.com.br

Bulgarian Union for Balneology and Spa Tourism (BUBSPA)

■ www.bubspa.org

Association of Spas of the Czech Republic

■ www.jedemedolazni.cz

Estonian Spa Association

■ www.estonianspas.eu

European Historic Thermal Towns Association

■ www.ehtta.eu

European Spas Association

■ www.europeanspas.eu

Federation of Holistic Therapists (FHT)

■ www.fht.org.uk

Federterme

■ www.federterme.it

FEMTEC (the World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy)

■ <https://www.femteconline.org/m>

French Spa Association (SPA-A)

■ www.spa-a.org

German Spas Association

■ www.deutscher-heilbaederverband.de

Global Wellness Institute (GWI)

■ www.globalwellnessinstitute.org

GSN Planet

■ www.gsnplanet.org

Hot Springs Association

■ <https://hotspringsassociation.com>

Hungarian Baths Association

■ www.furdoszovetseg.hu/en

Hydrothermal Spa Forum

■ www.hydrothermal-spa-forum.net

Icelandic Spa Association

■ www.hlsi.is

The International Medical Spa Association

■ www.dayspaassociation.com/imsa

International Sauna Association

■ www.saunainternational.net

International Spa Association (ISPA)

■ www.experienceispa.com

Irish Spa Association

■ www.irishspaassociation.ie

Japan Spa Association

■ www.j-spa.jp

Latin American Spa Association

■ www.spalatinoamerica.com

Leading Spas of Canada

■ www.leadingspasofcanada.com

National Guild of Spa Experts Russia

■ www.russiaspas.ru

Portuguese Spas Association

■ www.termasdeportugal.pt

Romanian Spa Organization

■ www.romanian-spas.ro

Salt Therapy Association

■ www.salttherapyassociation.org

Saudi Arabian Wellness Association

■ www.saudiwellness.org

Sauna from Finland

■ www.saunafromfinland.com

Serbian Spas & Resorts Association

■ www.ubas.org.rs

South African Spa Association

■ www.saspaassociation.co.za

Spanish National Spa Association

■ www.balnearios.org

Spa and Wellness Association of Africa (SWAA)

■ www.swafrica.org

Spa & Wellness Association of Canada

■ www.spaandwellnessassociationofcanada.com

Spa Association of India

■ www.spaassociationofindia.in

Spa Industry Association

■ www.dayspaassociation.com

The Sustainable Spa Association (SSA)

■ www.sustainablespas.org

Taiwan Spa Association

■ <https://www.twspa.tw/>

Thai Spa Association

■ www.thaispaassociation.com

The UK Spa Association

■ www.spa-uk.org

Ukrainian SPA Association

■ www.facebook.com/UASPA

Wellness Tourism Association

■ www.wellnesstourismassociation.org